

BES

To BESPI'T. *v. a.* I bespat, or bespit; I have bespit, or bespitten. [from *spit*.] To dawb with spittle.
 BESPO'KE. *irreg. partic. from bespeak*; which see.
 To BESPO'T. *v. a.* [from *spot*.] To mark with spots.
 Mildew rests on the wheat, bespott'g the stalks with a different colour from the natural. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*
 To BESPRE'AD. *v. a.* [from *spread*.] To spread over; to cover over.
 His nuptial bed,
 With curious needles wrought, and painted flowers bespread.
Dryden.
 The globe is equally bespread; so that no place wants proper inhabitants. *Derham's Physico-Theology.*
 To BESPRINKLE. *v. a.* [from *sprinkle*.] To sprinkle over; to scatter over.
 He indeed, imitating the father poet, whose life he had also written, hath besprinkled his work with many fabulofities. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. i. c. 8.*
 A purple flood
 Flows from the trunk, that welters in the blood:
 The bed besprinkles, and bedews the ground. *Dryden.*
 To BESPU'TTER. *v. a.* [from *sputter*.] To sputter over something; to dawb any thing by sputtering, or throwing out spittle upon it.
 BEST. *adj.* the superlative from *good*. [bec, becepa, bece, good, better, best, Saxon.]
 1. Most good; that which has good qualities in the highest degree.
 And he will take your fields, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. *1 Samuel, viii. 14.*
 When the best things are not possible, the best may be made of those that are. *Hooker, b. v. § 9.*
 When he is best, he is a little more than a man; and when he is worst, he is a little better than a beast. *Shakep. M. of Ven.*
 I think it a good argument to say, the infinitely wise God hath made it so: and therefore it is best. But it is too much confidence of our own wisdom, to say, I think it best, and therefore God hath made it so. *Lacke.*
 An evil intention perverts the best actions, and makes them fins. *Addison, Spectator, N° 213.*
 2. The best. The utmost power; the strongest endeavour; the most; the highest perfection.
 I profess not talking: only this,
 Let each man do his best. *Shakep. Henry IV. p. 1.*
 The duke did his best to come down. *Bacon's War with Sp.*
 He does this to the best of his power. *Lacke.*
 My friend, said he, our sport is at the best. *Addison, Ovid.*
 3. To make the best. To carry to its greatest perfection; to improve to the utmost.
 Let there be freedom to carry their commodities where they may make the best of them, except there be some special cause of caution. *Bacon.*
 His father left him an hundred drachmas; Alnaschar, in order to make the best of it, laid it out in glasses. *Addison, Spect.*
 We set sail, and made the best of our way, till we were forced, by contrary winds, into St. Remo. *Addison on Italy.*
 BEST. *adv.* [from *well*.] In the highest degree of goodness.
 He shall dwell in that place where he shall choose in one of thy gates, where it liketh him best. *Deut. xxiii. 16.*
 BEST is sometimes used in composition.
 These latter best-be-trust-fies had some of them further instructions, to draw off the best friends and servants of Perkin, by making remonstrances to them, how weakly his enterprize and hopes were built. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
 By this law of loving even our enemies, the christian religion discovers itself to be the most generous and best-natured institution that ever was in the world. *Tillotson, sermon v.*
 To BESTAIN. *v. a.* [from *stain*.] To mark with stains; to spot.
 We will not line his thin bestained cloke
 With our pure honours. *Shakep. King John.*
 To BESTE'AD. *v. a.* I bested; I have bested. [from *stead*.]
 1. To profit.
 Hence vain deluding joys,
 The brood of folly, without father bred,
 How little you bestead,
 Or fill the fixed mind with all your toys. *Milton.*
 2. To treat; to accommodate.
 And they shall pass through it hardly bestead, and hungry. *Isaiah, viii. 21.*
 BE'STIAL. *adj.* [from *beast*.]
 1. Belonging to a beast, or to the class of beasts.
 His wild disorder'd walk, his haggard eyes,
 Did all the bestial citizens surprize. *Dryden's Hind and P.*
 2. Having the qualities of beasts; brutal; below the dignity of reason or humanity; carnal.
 I have lost the immortal part of myself, and what remains is bestial. *Shakep. Othello.*
 Moreover, urge his hateful luxury,
 And bestial appetite, in change of lust. *Shakep. Rich. III.*
 For those, the race of Israel oft forsook
 Their living strength, and unfrequented, left

BES

His righteous altar, bowing lowly down
 To bestial gods. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. i. l. 435.*
 The things promised are not gross and carnal, such as they court and gratify the most bestial part of us. *Decay of Piety.*
 BESTIALITY. *n. f.* [from *bestial*.] The quality of beasts; degeneracy from human nature.
 What can be a greater absurdity, than to affirm bestiality to be the essence of humanity, and darkness the center of light? *Arbutnot and Pope's Mart. Scriblerus.*
 BE'STIALLY. *adv.* [from *bestial*.] Brutally; in a manner below humanity.
 To BESTICK. *v. a.* preter. I bestuck, I have bestuck. [from *stick*.]
 To stick over with any thing; to mark any thing by infixing points or spots here and there.
 Truth shall retire,
 Bestuck with slanderous darts; and works of faith
 Rarely be found. *Milt. Par. Lost, b. xii. l. 536.*
 To BESTIR. *v. a.* [from *stir*.]
 1. To put into vigorous action. It is seldom used otherwise than with the reciprocal pronoun.
 As when men went to watch
 On duty, sleeping found by whom they dread,
 Rouze and bestir themselves ere well awake. *Milton.*
 Bestirs her then, and from each tender stalk
 Whatever earth, all-bearing mother, yields,
 She gathers. *Par. Lost, b. vi.*
 But, as a dog that turns the spit,
 Bestirs himself, and plies his feet
 To climb the wheel, but all in vain,
 His own weight brings him down again. *Hudibras, p. ii. c. iii.*
 What aileth them, that they must needs bestir themselves to get in air, to maintain the creature's life? *Roy on Creation.*
 2. It is used by *Shakespeare* with a common word.
 I am scarce in breath, my lord.—No marvel you have to bestir your valour, you cowardly rascal! *Shakep. King Lear.*
 To BESTOW. *v. a.* [from *bestow*, Dutch.]
 1. To give; to confer upon.
 All men would willingly have yielded him praise; but his nature was such as to bestow it upon himself, before any could give it. *Sidney.*
 All the dedicate things of the house of the Lord did they bestow upon Baalim. *2 Chron. xxiv. 7.*
 Sir Julius Cæsar had, in his office, the disposition of the fix clarks places; which he had bestowed to such persons as he thought fit. *Clarendon.*
 2. To give as charity.
 Our Saviour doth plainly witness, that there should not be as much as a cup of cold water bestowed for his sake, without reward. *Hooker, b. ii. § 8.*
 And though he was unsatisfied in getting,
 Which was a sin; yet in bestowing, madam,
 He was most princely. *Shakep. Henry VIII.*
 Spain to your gift alone her Indies owes;
 For what the powerful takes not, he bestows. *Dryden.*
 You always exceed expectations: as if yours was not your own, but to bestow on wanting merit. *Dryden's Pables, Ded.*
 3. To give in marriage.
 Good rev'rend father, make my person yours;
 And tell me how you would bestow yourself. *Shakep.*
 I could have bestowed her upon a fine gentleman, who extremely admired her. *Tatler, N° 75.*
 4. To give as a present.
 Pure oil and incense on the fire they throw,
 And fat of victims which his friends bestow. *Dryden.*
 5. To apply.
 The sea was not the duke of Marlborough's element; otherwise the whole force of the war would infallibly have been bestowed there. *Swift.*
 6. To lay out upon.
 And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, for sheep, or for wine. *Deut. xiv. 26.*
 7. To lay up; to flow; to place.
 And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house. *2 Kings, v. 24.*
 BESTOW'ER. *n. f.* [from *bestow*.] Giver; he that confers any thing; disposer.
 They all agree in making one supreme God; and that there are several beings that are to be worshipped under him; some as the bestowers of thrones, but subordinate to the Supreme. *Stillingfl.*
 BESTRAUGHT. *partic. p.* [Of this participle I have not found the verb; by analogy we may derive it from *bestraet*; perhaps it is corrupted from *disfracted*.] Distracted; mad; out of one's senses; out of one's wits.
 Ask Marian, the fat alewife, if she knew me not. What! I am not bestraught. *Shakep. Tam. the Shrew.*
 To BESTREW. *v. a.* partic. pass. bestrewn, or bestrown. [from *strew*.] To sprinkle over.
 So thick bestrewn,
 Abject and lost lay these, covering the flood. *Par. Lost, b. i.*
 To BESTRIDE. *v. a.* I bestrid; I have bestrid, or bestridden. [from *stride*.]
 1. To stride over any thing; to have any thing between one's legs.
 Why

BET

Why, man, he doth bestride the narrow world
 Like a colossus. *Shakep. Julius Cæsar.*
 Make him bestride the ocean, and mankind
 Ask his consent, to use the sea and wind. *Waller.*
 2. To step over.
 That I see thee here,
 Thou noble thing! more dances my rapt heart,
 Than when I first my wedded mistress saw
 Bestride my threshold. *Shakep. Coriolanus.*
 3. It is often used of riding.
 He bestrides the lazy pacing clouds,
 And sails upon the bosom of the air. *Shakep. Rom. and Jul.*
 That horse, that thou so often hast bestrid:
 That horse, that I so carefully have dress'd. *Shakep. R. II.*
 Venetians do not more uncouthly ride,
 Than did their lubber state mankind bestride. *Dryden.*
 The bounding steed you pompously bestride,
 Shares with his lord the pleasure and the pride. *Pope.*
 4. It is used sometimes of a man standing over something which he defends.
 He bestrid
 An o'erpress'd Roman, and i' th' consul's view
 Slew three opposers: Tarquin's self he met,
 And struck him on his knee. *Shakep. Coriolanus.*
 Let us rather
 Hold fast the mortal sword; and, like good men,
 Bestride our down-fall birthdom. *Shakep. Macbeth.*
 If thou see me down in the battle, and bestride me, so; 'tis a point of friendship. *Shakep. Henry IV. p. i.*
 He doth bestride a bleeding land,
 Gaping for life, under great Bolingbroke. *Shak. Henry IV.*
 To BESTUD. *v. a.* [from *stud*.] To adorn with studs, or shining prominences.
 Th' unthought diamonds
 Would so emblaze the forehead of the deep,
 And so bestud with stars, that they below
 Would grow inur'd to light. *Milton.*
 BET. *n. f.* [pebban, to wager; peb, a wager, Sax. from which the etymologists derive bet. I should rather imagine it to come from *betan*, to mend, encrease, or better, as a bet encreases the original wager.] A wager; something laid to be won upon certain conditions.
 The hoary fool, who many days
 Has struggl'd with continu'd sorrow,
 Renews his hope, and blindly lays
 The desperate bet upon tomorrow. *Prior.*
 His pride was in piquette,
 Newmarket fame, and judgment at a bet. *Pope.*
 To BET. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To wager; to stake at a wager.
 He drew a good bow: and dead? John of Gaunt loved him well, and betted much upon his head. *Shakep. Henry IV. p. ii.*
 He flies the court for want of clothes,
 Cries out 'gainst cocking, since he cannot bet. *B. Johnson.*
 The god, unhappily engag'd,
 Complains, and sigh'd, and cry'd, and fretted,
 Lost ev'ry earthly thing he betted. *Prior.*
 BET. The old preterite of *bet*.
 He staid for a better hour, till the hammer had wrought and bet the party more pliant. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
 To BETAKE. *v. a.* preter. I betook; part. pass. betaken. [from *take*.]
 1. To take; to seize: an obsolete sense.
 Then to his hands that writ he did betake,
 Which he disclosing read. *Fairy Queen, b. i. c. xii. ff. 25.*
 2. To have recourse to; with the reciprocal pronoun.
 The adverse party betaking itself to such practices as men embrace, when they behold things brought to desperate extremities. *Hooker, b. iv. § 14.*
 Thou tyrant!
 Do not repent these things; for they are heavier
 Than all thy woes can stir: therefore betake thee
 To nothing but despair. *Shakep. Winter's Tale.*
 The rest, in imitation, to like arms
 Betook them, and the neighbor'g hills up tore. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. vi. l. 663.*
 3. To apply; with the reciprocal pronoun.
 With ease such fond chimeras we pursue,
 As fancy frames for fancy to subdue:
 But when ourselves to action we betake,
 It thuns the mint, like gold that chymists make. *Dryden.*
 As my observations have been the light whereby I have hitherto steer'd my course, so I here betake myself to them again. *Woodward's Natural History.*
 4. To move; to remove.
 Soft the withdrew; and, like a wood nymph light,
 Oread or Dryad, or of Delia's train,
 Betook her to the groves. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. ix. l. 389.*
 They both betook them several ways;
 Both to destroy. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. x. l. 610.*
 To BETE'M. *v. a.* [from *teem*.] To bring forth; to bestow; to give.
 VOL. I.

BET

So would I, said th' enchanter, glad and fain
 Betem to you his sword, you to defend;
 But that this weapon's pow'r I well have kend,
 To be contrary to the work that ye intend. *Fairy Q. b. iii.*
 Belike for want of rain; which I could well
 Betem them from the tempest of mine eyes. *Shakep. Midsummer Night's Dream.*
 To BETHINK. *v. a.* I bethought; I have bethought. [from *think*.]
 To recal to reflection; to bring back to consideration, or recollection. It is generally used with the reciprocal pronoun, and of before the subject of thought.
 They were sooner in danger than they could almost bethink themselves of change. *Sidney, b. ii.*
 I have bethought me of another fault. *Shak. Meas. for M.*
 I, better bethinking myself, and mifliking his determination, gave him this order. *Raleigh's Essays.*
 He himself,
 Infatiable of glory, had lost all:
 Yet of another plea bethought him soon. *Parad. Regained.*
 The nets were laid, yet the birds could never bethink themselves, till hamper'd, and past recovery. *L'Estrange.*
 Cherippus, then in time yourself bethink,
 And what your rage will yield by auction sink. *Dryden.*
 A little consideration may allay his heat, and make him bethink himself, whether this attempt be worth the venture. *Locke.*
 BETHLEHEM. *n. f.* [See BEDLAM.] An hospital for lunatics.
 BETHLEHEMITE. *n. f.* [See BEDLAMITE.] A lunatic; an inhabitant of a madhouse.
 BETROUGHT. *partic. p.* [from *betink*; which see.]
 To BETHRAL. *v. a.* [from *thrall*.] To enslave; to conquer; to bring into subjection.
 Ne let that wicked woman scape away,
 For she it is that did my lord bethrall. *Shakep. King John.*
 To BETHUMP. *v. a.* [from *thump*.] To beat; to lay blows upon: a ludicrous word.
 I was never so bethump'd with words,
 Since first I call'd my brother's father dad. *Shak. King John.*
 To BETIDE. *v. n.* pret. It betided, or betid; part. pass. betid. [from *bet*, Sax. See TIDE.]
 1. To happen to; to befall; to bechance; whether good or bad.
 Said he then to the Palmer, reverend fire,
 What great misfortune hath betid this knight? *Fairy Queen.*
 But say, if our deliverer up to heav'n
 Must rescend, what will betide the few,
 His faithful, left among th' unfaithful herd,
 The enemies of truth? *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. xii. l. 480.*
 2. Sometimes it has to.
 Neither know I,
 What is betid to Cloten; but remain
 Perplex in all. *Shakep. Cymbeline.*
 3. To come to pass; to fall out; to happen.
 She, when her turn was come her tale to tell,
 Told of a strange adventure that betided,
 Betwixt the fox and th' ape by him misguided. *Spens. Habb.*
 In winter's tedious nights, sit by the fire
 With good old folks, and let them tell thee tales
 Of woful ages, long ago betid. *Shakep. Richard II.*
 Let me hear from thee by letters,
 Of thy success in love; and what news else
 Betideth here in absence of thy friend. *Sh. Two Gent. of Ver.*
 4. To become.
 If he were dead, what would betide of thee? *Sh. Rich. III.*
 BETIME. *adv.* [from *by* and *time*; that is, by the proper BETIMES. } time.]
 1. Seasonably; early.
 Send succours, lords, and stop the rage betime. *Shakep. Henry VI. p. ii.*
 To measure life, learn thou betimes, and know
 Toward solid good what leads the nearest way. *Par. Reg.*
 2. Soon; before long time has passed.
 Whiles they are weak, betimes with them contend;
 For when they once to perfect strength do grow,
 Strong wars they make. *Fairy Queen, b. ii. c. iv. ff. 34.*
 He tires betimes, that spurs too fast betimes. *Sh. Rich. II.*
 There be some have an over-early ripeness in their years, which fadeth betimes: these are first, such as have brittle wits, the edge whereof is soon turned. *Bacon's Essays.*
 Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth; that is, enter upon a religious course betimes. *Tillotson, sermon i.*
 Short is the date, alas! of modern rhymes;
 And 'tis but just to let them live betimes. *Pope's Essay on Crit.*
 3. Early in the day.
 He that drinks all night, and is hanged betimes in the morning, may sleep the foundier next day. *Sh. Measure for Measure.*
 They rose betimes in the morning, and offered sacrifice. *1 Mac. iv. 52.*
 BETLE. } *n. f.* An Indian plant, called water pepper. *Dis.*
 BETRE. } *n. f.* [from *beten*.]
 1. To signify; to mark; to represent.
 We know not wherefore churches should be the worse, if, at this